

Regular Meeting

Agenda Item #	4
Meeting Date	December 11, 2006
Prepared By	Daryl Braithwaite, Public Works Director
Approved By	Barbara B. Matthews City Manager

Discussion Item	Resolution Supporting Certification of Takoma Park as a Wildlife Federation Backyard Wildlife Habitat Community
Background	<p>On November 13, 2006, representatives of the Friends Of Sligo Creek, the Takoma Park Horticultural Club, and the Committee on the Environment addressed the Council regarding their campaign to encourage area residents to have their backyards certified as supporting wildlife habitat. If a sufficient number of households, schools, and public properties become certified, the City of Takoma Park as a whole can be designated a National Wildlife Federation Wildlife Habitat Community.</p> <p>At the conclusion of the November 13 work session, the Council expressed support for the campaign. The proposed Resolution would serve to formalize the City's endorsement of the effort.</p>
Policy	The City Council has historically supported environmental projects that involve the community and are sustainable.
Fiscal Impact	None. The City would participate in educating the community about the campaign through existing resources such as the City Newsletter and the City's website.
Attachments	Draft Resolution
Recommendation	Adopt proposed Resolution
Special Consideration	

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION #2006-__

**Supporting Certification of Takoma Park as a National Wildlife Federation Backyard
Wildlife Habitat Community**

WHEREAS, residents of the City of Takoma Park recognize the connection between the urban environment and the quality of our natural systems and water resources, and have long shown a commitment to a healthy environment both for people and wildlife; and,

WHEREAS, elected City officials and the government of Takoma Park have taken many useful actions to ensure a more sustainable community, including among others: recycling of waste, energy conservation and use of renewable sources of electricity, formal recognition of Rachel Carson Day, and programs to enhance our urban forest and parks; and,

WHEREAS, pursuing certification of backyards, schools, and other public and private properties will benefit wildlife and residents by promoting sustainable gardening practices, creating habitat through planting of trees and other plants, and by educating and engaging citizens of all ages in improving the quality of life in Takoma Park; and,

WHEREAS, a cadre of citizen-volunteers including the Takoma Park Committee on the Environment, the Takoma Park Horticulture Club, the Friends of Sligo Creek, and *The Takoma Voice* have joined forces to energize and support City residents, schools, and the government in completing the effort to see the City certified as a Wildlife Habitat Community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland supports the citizen-led effort to seek Certification of Takoma Park as a National Wildlife Federation Backyard Wildlife Habitat Community. The Council urges City staff to work in partnership with the citizen effort by offering such advice and resources as are reasonable to ensure a successful outcome to this project.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2006.

ATTEST:

Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk